

CELEBRATING ARLENE RITTER'S
105TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Arlene Ritter of Johnson, Nebraska, who is celebrating her 105th birthday today, July 22nd.

Arlene was born to Elmer Claude and Ella May Demarest in 1910. She had two brothers, Frank and Harry, and graduated from Talmage High School in Talmage, Nebraska. In December 1932, Arlene married Herbert M.J. Ritter and proudly added farm wife to her list of talents as an artist, seamstress, and cook.

Arlene and her husband raised four daughters. Herbert passed away in 1966, but Arlene continued to live independently on the farm until late last year. She has remained active in her church, school, and community, even serving as the brainchild for the founding of the Brock Bugle local newspaper.

Over the course of 105 years, Arlene has experienced countless remarkable events in Nebraska and our country. As highlights of her life, she lists being honored at a Husker football game and, more importantly, her faith in Jesus Christ. She also enjoys spending time with her 11 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren, and seven great-great-grandchildren.

On behalf of the people of Nebraska's Third District, I congratulate Arlene on her 105th birthday and wish her many more healthy and happy years.

HONORING ALVIN JAY FUGITT

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2015

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness, I rise to recognize an outstanding community leader, Alvin Jay Fugitt, who died after battling Parkinson's disease and cancer for several years.

A resident of the city of La Verne, Mr. Fugitt embraced life, people, and causes that saved endangered species, protected the environment and enriched the lives of the poor and the oppressed.

Mr. Fugitt was an avid reader who co-founded the Friends of La Verne Library, which has provided educational resources to the poor and struggling service men and women. He worked closely with elected officials of La Verne and is recognized as the embodiment of kindness after a lifetime of advocacy for environmental causes, energy conservation, urban development, and improving education.

Mr. Fugitt's selfless service will be missed greatly by his family, friends, and neighbors. We are all devastated by the loss of one so loved, and I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join my constituents and me in honoring Mr. Fugitt for his lasting, positive impact to our San Gabriel Valley community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2015

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, on July 21, 2015, I was not present for roll call votes #448 and 449. Had I been present, I would have voted AYE on both.

HONORING THE EXTRAORDINARY
LIFE OF THOMAS M. LOFTON

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2015

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a beloved member of the Indiana community, Thomas Lofton. Sadly, Tom passed away on June 19, 2015, at the age of 86. He was a well-established attorney and leader of the Lilly Endowment, one of the largest private philanthropic foundations in the country. He will be dearly missed by the Hoosier community, but he leaves behind a tremendous legacy that will live on and flourish under the leadership of those that he has mentored.

A lifelong Hoosier, Tom was born and raised in Indianapolis. He attended Howe High School, and during this time he was an Eagle Scout and a delegate to Hoosier Boys State. He later earned his bachelor's degree from Indiana University and J.D. from the Indiana University Maurer School of Law. He graduated with distinction and was honored with membership to the Order of the Coif and Beta Gamma Sigma, both of which are honor societies recognizing academic excellence.

Tom's experience in the law field is extensive and impressive. He started his career by serving as a law clerk to United States Supreme Court Justice Sherman Minton. After his clerkship he joined Baker & Daniels law firm in Indianapolis and remained there for over three decades. He developed a national reputation as an expert on tax-exempt organizations, providing counsel to organizations like The Clowes Fund, Liberty Fund, Indiana University Foundation, Christian Theological Seminary, the Eiteljorg Museum, and the Lilly Endowment, which he would later Chair.

In 1991, Tom retired from his position as Managing Partner at Baker & Daniels to accept the position of Vice Chairman of the Lilly Endowment and in 1994 was named Chairman, a position which he would hold for the next 22 years. The impact he made in his over 45 years of service in Indianapolis is incredible. During his Lilly Endowment Chairmanship he oversaw the allocation of more than \$7 billion in grants to education, community development, and religion, mostly in Indianapolis. He had a passion for helping others and cared deeply about the Endowment and its legacy. He was known to be a great mentor, investing time in helping others grow personally and professionally. He truly was an embodiment of the Endowment's mission to serve others.

Tom's dedication to charitable causes went beyond his involvement with the Lilly Endowment. He was a member of the boards of the Indiana University Foundation and the Allen

Whitehall Clowes Charitable Foundation, to name a few. Tom also continued his devotion to Indiana University by founding and sitting on the Board of Visitors of the Indiana University Maurer School of Law and sitting on the IU Medical School Dean's Council.

On many different occasions, Tom was recognized for his wonderful work. He received honorary doctoral degrees from Indiana University, Ball State University, and Wabash College. He received numerous awards from Indiana University, including the Distinguished Alumni Service Award, the Thomas Hart Benton Medallion, and was inducted into the Academy of Law Alumni Fellows. From Wabash College he received the Peck Award for his distinguished career. He was even added to the Sigma Nu Fraternity Hall of Honor and awarded by Governor Mitch Daniels the prestigious Sagamore of the Wabash.

Tom is survived by his wife, Betty Lofton, daughters Stephanie Lees of Indianapolis and Melissa Guinn of Bloomington, six grandchildren, two great grandchildren, and his brother, John Lofton. Tom had an unrivaled wisdom and commitment to serving others. Tom was a leader in the community who will always be remembered through his accomplishments and the enduring benefits he created for the Indianapolis community. Please join me in thanking Tom's family and friends for sharing such a wonderful man with the Hoosier community.

HONORING THE THOMPSON-
CLEMONS POST #200

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor The Thompson-Clemons Post #200 of Greenwood, Mississippi.

The Thompson-Clemons Post #200 of Greenwood, Mississippi was the first African American Post established in the State of Mississippi and came about due to the perseverance of eighteen determined Black Veterans of World War I and World War II in the Mississippi Delta.

These veterans attempted to join Keeler-Hamrick-Gillespie Post #29 which refused them membership. Given that this was the 1940s and Mississippi being a segregationist state, Post #29 could not get a majority vote of its members to allow black veterans to join their post.

The eighteen black veterans filed a petition to start a new post and presented it to the Mississippi Department of the American Legion. Mr. Solomon N. Dickerson, a black veteran, postal worker and co-worker of Mr. Author H. Ritchter, the Adjutant of post #29, worked to get the petition through the District. It was due to their vigorous and persistent correspondence to the District and the Mississippi Department of the American Legion that they were allowed to form a separate post if they could find a sponsor.

Keeler-Hamrick-Gillespie Post #29 agreed to serve as a sponsor to assist Thompson-Clemons Post #200 in getting the temporary charter, paving the way for other charters to be granted to other black veteran's groups throughout the state of Mississippi.